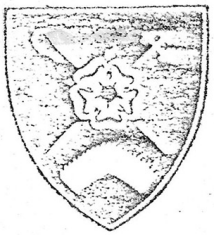

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

PARISH OFFICE

ROSEMONT, PENNSYLVANIA

MARCH 4, 1974

CHAIRMAN, STRATEGY: COMMITTEE OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL
C/O THE REV'D. JACK HARDWICKE
1700 MARKET STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Dear Sir,

THE PHILADELPHIA BRANCH OF THE CATHOLIC CLERICAL UNION, WHICH REPRESENTS SOME SIXTY AREA PRIESTS HAS ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU ITS DISMAY AT THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION OF JANUARY 26, 1974 AUTHORIZING THE BISHOP TO APPOINT AN OFFICIAL DIOCESAN COMMITTEE TO "ORGANIZE AND DIRECT A DIOCESAN-WIDE PROGRAM TO PROMOTE THE CAUSE OF AND TO PLAN FOR THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN TO THE PRIESTHOOD". WE HAVE DEEP RESPECT FOR THE DEVOTION WITH WHICH BISHOP OGILBY HAS UNDERTAKEN THE HARD WORK OF DIOCESAN AND FEEL THAT THIS PUTS A HARD BURDEN UPON HIM AND ENCOURAGES DISSENT.

THE COMMITTEE MANIFESTLY VIOLATES THE WILL OF THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS ACTING IN GENERAL CONVENTION AT THE BEHEST OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP-ELECT AND THE WILL OF THE 1972 CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA, BOTH OF WHICH CALLED FOR OBJECTIVE STUDY OF ALL SIDES OF THE ISSUE. WE URGE THAT THE DIOCESAN COMMITTEE INCLUDE EQUAL NUMBERS OF PERSONS FOR AND AGAINST REVISION OF THE ORDINAL CANONS WITH THE INTENTION OF STUDYING RATHER THAN PROSELYTIZING, OR THAT THERE BE PROVIDED AN EQUAL SUM OF MONEY FOR QUALIFIED PERSONS TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICIAL POSITON OF THE 1973 GENERAL CONVENTION WHICH VOTED AGAINST THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN.

SINCERELY,

GEORGE WILLIAM RUTLER, PRESIDENT
CATHOLIC CLERICAL UNION
PHILADELPHIA BRANCH

GWR:LR

CC. BISHOP OF PENNSYLVANIA
MISS RUTH FIESEL